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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104653

DISTO

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 104653 ACTION JERUSALEM 19 MAY

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104653

TOSEC 812

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, PARM, IN
SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION

1. FOLLOWING IS INR ROUND-UP OF OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL REACTIONS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AVAILABLE AS OF 1700 EDT.

2. NUCLEAR POWERS

(A) USSR: MOSCOW TASS, MAY 18, RAN VIRTUALLY A VERBATIM VERSION OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT. THE TASS VERSION STRESSED THE "PEACEFUL" NATURE OF THE EXPLOSION AND REITERATED INDIA'S ASSURANCES THAT IT WOULD NOT DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS. MOSCOW TASS, MAY 19, QUOTED INDIAN DEFENSE MINISTER RAM'S STATEMENT THAT INDIA WOULD NEVER USE
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NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. TASS WENT ON TO

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DESCRIBE THE USES OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS IN ENGINEERING PROJECTS.

(B) CHINA: NCNA CARRIED A BARE-BONES FACTUAL NEWS STORY. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL COMMENT. AFP REPORTED THAT A CHINESE SPOKESMAN--WHILE REFUSING TO COMMENT--REFERRED TO CHINESE VIEWS AS WELL KNOWN. PEKING'S POSITION IS TO OPPOSE ANY NON-PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND TO OPPOSE SUPERPOWER NUCLEAR MONOPOLY.

(C) BRITAIN: AN UNIDENTIFIED SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED REGRET. THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH ASSERTED THAT IT IS THE SUPERPOWERS' FAULT THAT THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE NOT UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONTROL. IT WARNED THAT SMALLER NATIONS, PLAYING WITH FIRE, WILL "ONE DAY BURN DOWN THE WHOLE HOUSE." THE SUNDAY OBSERVER SAID THAT, WHILE THE EXPLOSION DOES NOT MEAN THAT INDIA HAS A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY YET, THE EXPERTS AGREE THAT IT CAN HAVE ONE IN A FEW YEARS.

(D) FRANCE: NO OFFICIAL REACTION HAS BEEN NOTED YET. PARIS WILL PROBABLY EXPRESS REGRETS AT THE EXPLOSION BUT TAKE AT FACE VALUE NEW DELHI'S WORD THAT IT IS FOR PEACE-FUL PURPOSES.

3. PAKISTAN: A FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID, MAY 18, THAT THE INDIAN TEST HAD "QUALITATIVELY" ALTERED THE SITU-ATION IN SOUTH ASIA. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO, AT A NEWS CONFERENCE IN LAHORE, MAY 19, SAID PAKISTAN IS DETERMINED NOT TO BE INTIMIDATED BY THE THREAT CREATED BY THE INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM HIS STATEMENT FOLLOW:

(A) --PAKISTAN WILL NEVER SURRENDER ITS RIGHTS OR CLAIMS BECAUSE OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR STATUS AND WILL NOT BE DEFLECTED FROM ITS POLICIES BY THIS FATEFUL DEVELOPMENT.

(B) --INDIA HAS SHATTERED TO PIECES THE NONPROLIFERATION TREATY. THIS WAS BOUND TO BOLDEN ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA TO FURTHER THE WORK OF DEMOLITION. NOT ONLY PAKISTAN, BUT CONFIDENTIAL

THE ENTIRE ASIAN-AFRICAN COMMUNITY HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO A NEW MENACE.

(C) --AS THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS A DANGER TO THE WHOLE WORLD, THE UN MUST ADDRESS ITSELF MORE VIGOR-OUSLY TO THE QUESTION OF CREDIBLE SECURITY ASSURANCES AGAINST A NUCLEAR THREAT OR BLACKMAIL TO ALL NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES. THE EXISTING ASSURANCES EXTENDED BY THE

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SECURITY COUNCIL LACK CREDIBILITY. THE US-SOVIET STATE-
MENT TO ACT JOINTLY TO PREVENT A NUCLEAR WAR CANNOT
INSPIRE SUFFICIENT CONFIDENCE AMONG THE VICTIMS OF A
WOULD-BE NUCLEAR AGGRESSOR.

(D) --WHAT IS NEEDED IS A JOINT UNDERTAKING IN THE NATURE
OF AN OBLIGATION BY ALL THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL TO ACT COLLECTIVELY OR INDIVIDUALLY ON
BEHALF OF THE THREATENED STATES.

(E) --PAKISTAN IS FORMALLY APPROACHING THE UN SECRETARY
GENERAL, AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY IS BEING SENT TO CHINA,
FRANCE, AND BRITAIN TO EXPLAIN PAKISTAN'S POSITION TO THEM.

BHUTTO WAS VISITING THE USSR HIMSELF AND WOULD TAKE UP
THIS QUESTION WITH THE SOVIET LEADERS. HE HAD ALSO
DIRECTED THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
DEFENSE TO RAISE THIS ISSUE AT THE CENTO MEETING IN
WASHINGTON AND TO HOLD URGENT DISCUSSIONS WITH US
OFFICIALS. LATER, HE WOULD GO TO CANADA. HE WAS ALSO
ADDRESSING LETTERS TO THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENTS
OF ALL THE NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES.

(F) --NOW THAT INDIA HAS BEGUN TO BRANDISH ITS NUCLEAR
SWORD, THE QUESTION OF CONCLUDING A NO-WAR PACT WITH
INDIA DOES NOT ARISE. IN THE FACE OF A NUCLEAR THREAT
SUCH A PACT WOULD AMOUNT TO CAPITULATION. PAKISTAN WILL
NOT COMPROMISE THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF JAMMU
AND KASHMIR.

4. OTHERS

(A) JAPAN:
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(L) IN A STATEMENT UNDOUBTEDLY APPROVED BY PRIME MINISTER
TANAKA, CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAIDO, ECHOING GENERAL
JAPANESE SENTIMENT, EXPRESSED OFFICIAL REGRET THAT INDIA
HAD CONDUCTED THE TEST AND SAID THAT IT RAN COUNTER TO
WORLD OPINION "EVEN IF FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES." AS
REPORTED BY THE JAPAN TIMES, FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES
COMMENTED THAT TESTING WOULD AFFECT INDIA'S IMPROVING
RELATIONS WITH THE US AND THE PRC AS WELL AS IMPACT ON THE
OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE SUBCONTINENT. THESE SOURCES AND
JAPANESE AEC MEMBER INOUE BOTH THOUGHT THAT INDIAN TESTING
WOULD NOT LEAD INDIA TOWARD NUCLEAR ARMAMENT.

(2) THE SOCIALIST, COMMUNIST, AND KOMEITO PARTIES HAVE
EACH ISSUED STATEMENTS DEPLORING THE TEST.

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(3) THE JAPANESE PRESS REACTED STRONGLY TO THE TEST. AN ASAHI EDITORIAL CALLED IT "SHEER MISCALCULATION" IF MRS. GANDHI EXPECTED TO REGAIN HER DOMESTIC POPULARITY BY MEANS OF A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED WITH A DEMAND THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SPEED UP PREPARATIONS FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE NPT. A YOMIURI EDITORIAL EXPRESSED FEAR THAT THE DETONATION WOULD BE AN INCITEMENT TO INDIAN HAWKS WHO ASSUME A COMPETITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CHINESE. IT WONDERED HOW THE INDIAN PEOPLE COULD WELCOME THE TEST AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF WORSENING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

(B) ALBANIA: TIRANA RADIO CHARACTERIZED THE INDIAN TEST AS MILITARY, AND ATTRIBUTED IT IN PART TO INDIA'S

"AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS," IN PART TO THE DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES OF THE GANDHI GOVERNMENT, AND IN PART TO THE "EXTENSIVE" MILITARY ASSISTANCE WHICH MOSCOW IS GIVING NEW DELHI "TO FURTHER ENCOURAGE IT IN ITS EXPANSIONIST AMBITIONS." RUSH UNQUOTE
RUSH

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